SUPERMAN® & CHECKMATE™
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ACTION COMICS®
BY BYRNE, KUPPERBERG & TEMPLETON
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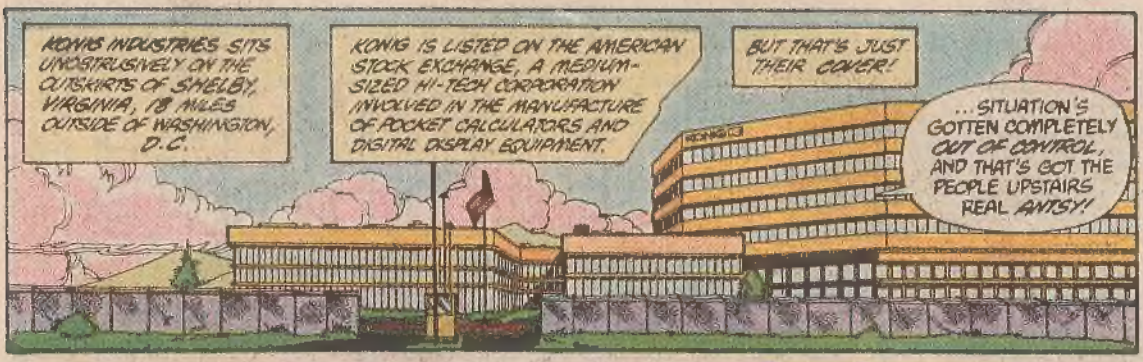
CHECKMATE™ BLOWS INTO METROPLIS!


KONIS INDUSTRIES SITS UNOBTRUSIVELY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SHELBY, VIRGINIA, 18 MILES OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.
KONIS IS LISTED ON THE AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE, A MEDIUM-SIZED HI-TECH CORPORATION INVOLVED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POCKET CALCULATORS AND DIGITAL DISPLAY EQUIPMENT.
BUT THAT'S JUST THEIR COVER!
...SITUATION'S GOTTEN COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL, AND THAT'S GOT THE PEOPLE UPSTAIRS REAL ANTSY!

THE COMPANY MANAGED TO GET A MOLE INSIDE THEIR ORGANIZATION, BUT HE'S BEEN OUT OF CONTACT SINCE LAST WEEK. THEY FIGURE HIS COVER WAS BLOWN.
AN' THEN BLOWN AWAY, HUH?
THAT'S USUALLY THE WAY IT WORKS, HARVEY.
SO WE HAVEN'T ANY REAL IDEA WHAT THEY'RE PLANNING, HARRY?

PUT THE PHOTO UP ON THE SCREEN, WILLYA, B.J.? THANKS.
ALL WE'VE GOT THAT'S SOLID IS THAT THEY'VE GOT SOMETHING BIG IN MIND... AND IT'S GOING TO BE HEADED UP BY THIS MAN-- KHAREEMAL.
THAT'S A MAJOR PROBLEM, AS QUARAL'S MINISTER OF DEFENSE, HE'S TRAVELLING UNDER DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AND THAT MAKES HIM HARD TO TOUCH.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, HARRY? WE MOVE OUR PEOPLE IN THERE AND.. PHFFT!' HE'S GONE BEFORE HE MAKES HIS MOVE!
NO GOOD. THE MAN'S GOING TO BE IN METROPOLIS TO ADDRESS THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE. BESIDES, WE NEED TO KILL THE OPERATION, NOT JUST THE MAN.

METROPOLIS?
I BELIEVE WE ALREADY HAVE A SOLUTION IN PLACE THERE...!
WELCOME TO... EMERGENCY!

CHECKMATE!
THIS STINKS!
USED TO BE THERE WAS SO MUCH SATISFACTION DOING WHAT I DO-- HAVING THE POWERS AND ABILITY TO HELP PEOPLE OUT OF JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.
BUT LATELY... LATELY I'M LUCKY IF I CAN EVEN HELP MYSELF.
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letterer colorist editor
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CHECKMATE! created by PAUL KUPPERBERG & JOHN BYRNE

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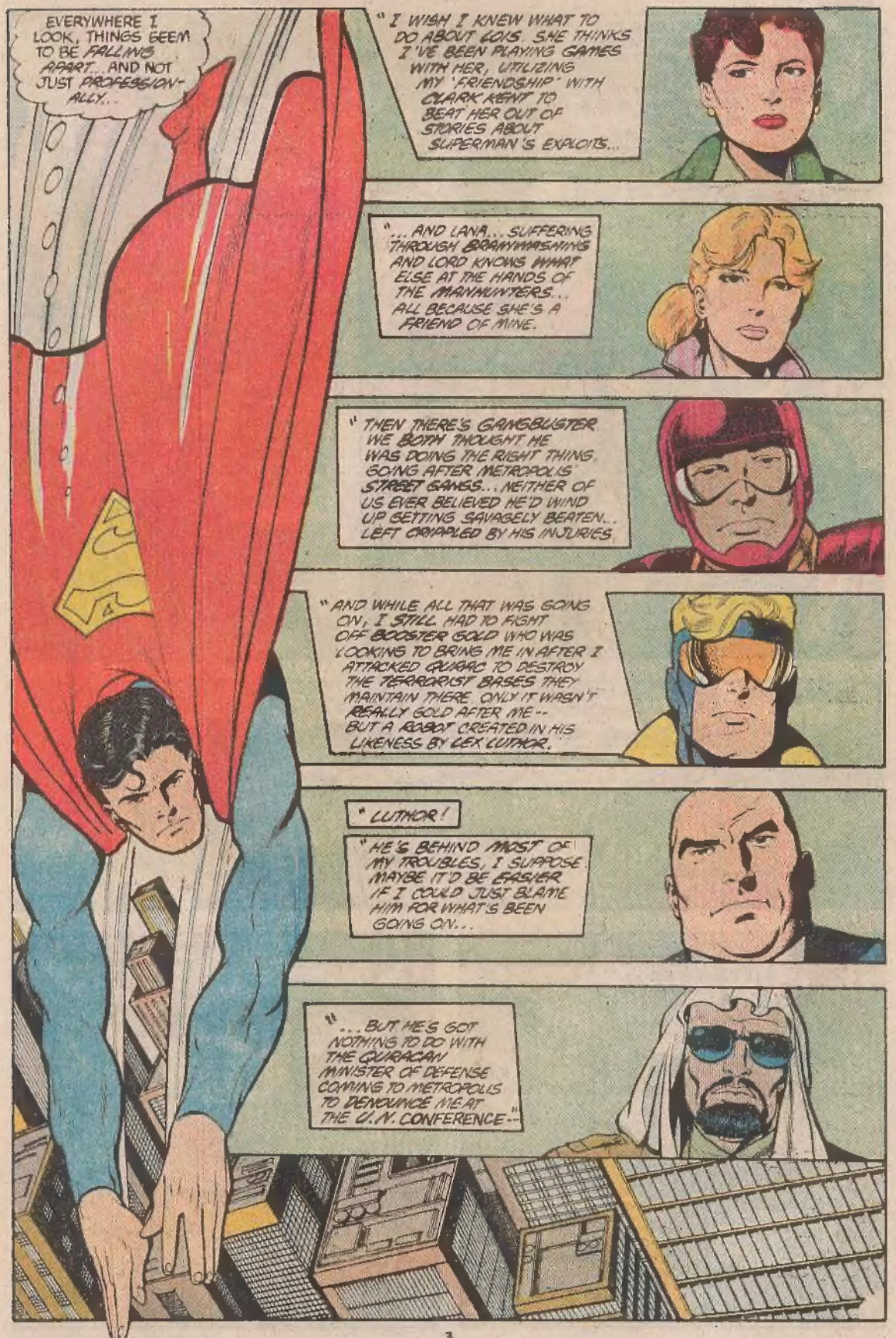
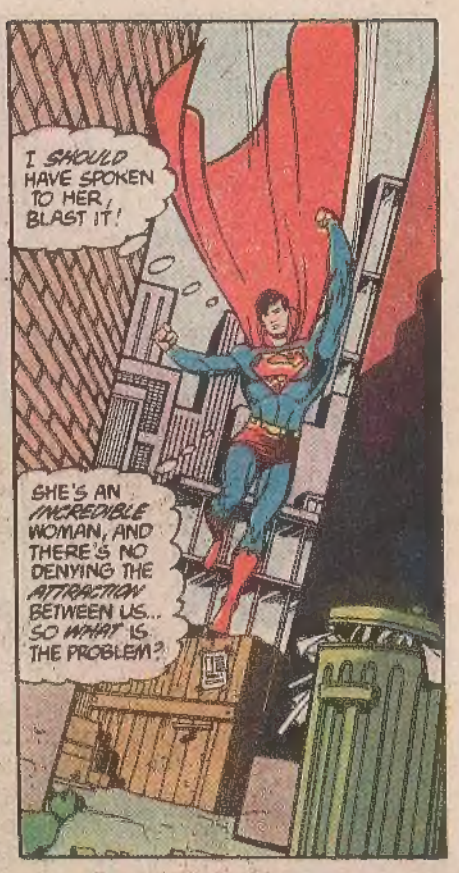
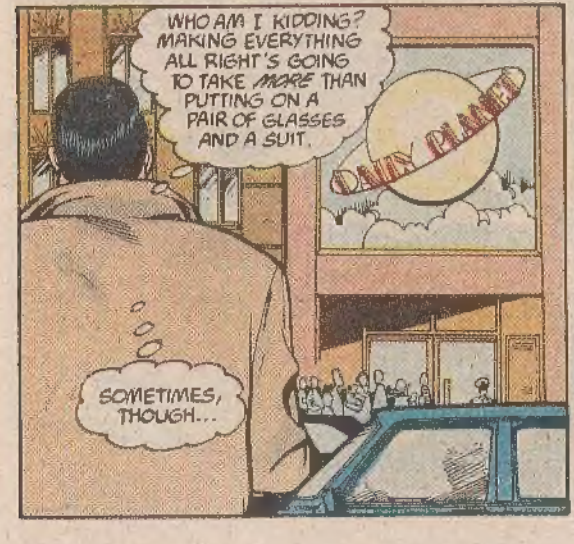

EVERYWHERE I LOOK, THINGS SEEM TO BE FALLING APART... AND NOT JUST PROFESSIONALLY...
"I WISH I KNEW WHAT TO DO ABOUT LOIS. SHE THINKS I'VE BEEN PLAYING GAMES WITH HER, UTILIZING MY 'FRIENDSHIP' WITH CLARK KENT TO BEAT HER OUT OF STORIES ABOUT SUPERMAN'S EXPLOITS...
"...AND LANA... SUFFERING THROUGH BRAINWASHING AND LORD KNOWS WHAT ELSE AT THE HANDS OF THE MANHUNTERS... ALL BECAUSE SHE'S A FRIEND OF MINE.
"THEN THERE'S GANGBUSTER. WE BOTH THOUGHT HE WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING, GOING AFTER METROPOLIS' STREET GANGS... NEITHER OF US EVER BELIEVED HE'D WIND UP GETTING SAVAGELY BEATEN... LEFT CRIPPLED BY HIS INJURIES.
"AND WHILE ALL THAT WAS GOING ON, I STILL HAD TO FIGHT OFF BOOSTER GOLD WHO WAS LOOKING TO BRING ME IN AFTER I ATTACKED QUARAC TO DESTROY THE TERRORIST BASES THEY MAINTAIN THERE. ONLY IT WASN'T REALLY GOLD AFTER ME -- BUT A ROBOT CREATED IN HIS LIKENESS BY LEX LUTHOR.
"LUTHOR!
"HE'S BEHIND MOST OF MY TROUBLES, I SUPPOSE. MAYBE IT'D BE EASIER IF I COULD JUST BLAME HIM FOR WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON...
"...BUT HE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THE QUARACAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE COMING TO METROPOLIS TO DENOUNCE ME AT THE U.N. CONFERENCE--"

--AND, LET'S FACE IT, THE WAY I'VE BEEN FEELING SINCE SEEING *WONDER WOMAN* AGAIN DURING THE *MILLENNIUM CRISIS* IS ALL *MY OWN* DOING...!


I *SHOULD* HAVE SPOKEN TO HER, BLAST IT!
SHE'S AN *INCREDIBLE* WOMAN, AND THERE'S NO DENYING THE *ATTRACTION* BETWEEN US... SO *WHAT* IS THE PROBLEM?

EVERYTHING.
EVERYTHING'S THE PROBLEM.
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT *ANY* OF IT AT THE MOMENT...
...WHILE CLARK KENT IS DUE TO SHOW UP AT THE OFFICE. IT'LL BE A *RELIEF* TO *ONLY* HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WORK FOR A CHANGE.


WHO AM I KIDDING? MAKING EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT'S GOING TO TAKE *MORE* THAN PUTTING ON A PAIR OF GLASSES AND A SUIT.
DAILY PLANET
SOMETIMES, THOUGH...

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

GOOD MORNING, JIMMY. WHAT'S WITH THE PACKAGE? SOMEONE'S BIRTHDAY?
NOPE. IT'S A PRESENT ...FOR CAT GRANT. I SURE HOPE SHE LIKES IT.

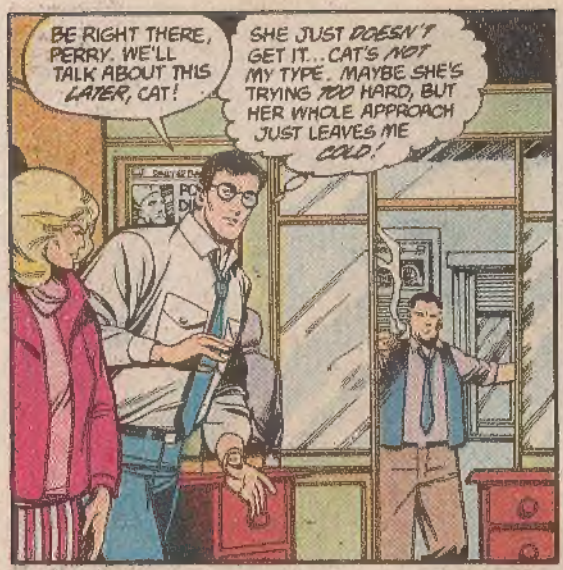
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO FIND OUT. MORNING, CAT.
HI, CLARKIE.

ER...HI, CAT. I, UMMM...WELL, Y'KNOW, THAT'S FOR YOU. AND I WAS, LIKE, WONDERING...
WELL, I'VE STILL GOT THOSE TICKETS TO THE ROLLING DEAD CONCERT AND, UMMM...
THANKS, JIMMY. THAT'S SWEET...

--BUT I ALMOST NEVER DATE BOWTIES.
OH... BOWTIE...

THAT REALLY WASN'T VERY NICE, CAT. JIMMY'S GOT A CRUSH ON YOU, YOU KNOW.
TELL THE KID TO GET IN LINE.

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, GET TO MOVE DIRECTLY TO THE HEAD OF THE LINE ANYTIME YOU SO DESIRE, MR. KENT!
KENT! IF YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY...?
CAT! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I ASKED YOU NOT TO...


BE RIGHT THERE, PERRY. WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER, CAT!
SHE JUST DOESN'T GET IT... CAT'S NOT MY TYPE. MAYBE SHE'S TRYING TOO HARD, BUT HER WHOLE APPROACH JUST LEAVES ME COLD!

WHAT'S UP, PERRY?
LOIS IS INTERVIEWING THE QURACAN DEFENSE MINISTER AT HIS HOTEL, BUT YOU KNOW HOW SHE CAN GET. GO BACK HER UP... IN CASE SHE GETS TOO OPENLY HOSTILE WITH THEM.

...AGREED TO GIVE THE PLANET THIS INTERVIEW, MR. MINISTER. I'M SURE MY READERS WILL WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE BACKING OUT OF IT NOW. YOU DON'T HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE, DO YOU?
NOT AT ALL, MISS LANE. IT IS JUST THAT I DID NOT EXPECT YOUR NEWSPAPER WOULD SEND A WOMAN.
YOU HAVE A PROBLEM DEALING WITH WOMEN?

INDEED NOT. IN THEIR PROPER PLACE. THE FEMALES OF QURAC KNOW THAT PLACE. UNLIKE THEIR AMERICAN COUSINS.

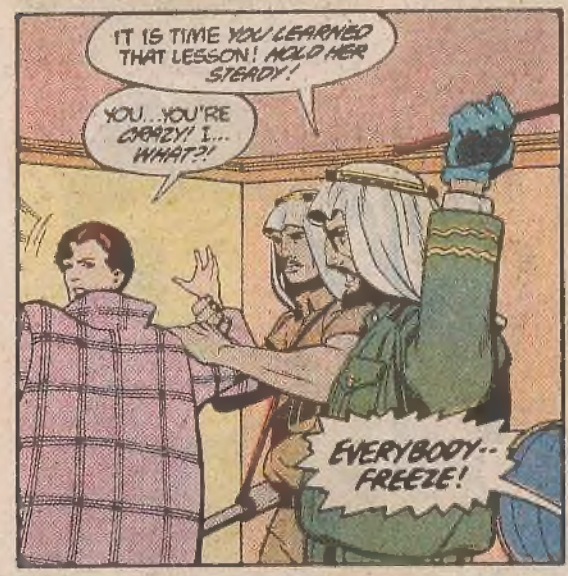
WELL, WELCOME TO THE 20TH CENTURY, PAL.

BUT I DIDN'T COME HERE TO TALK ABOUT WOMEN'S LIB. I'M INTERESTED IN YOUR COUNTRY'S OFFICIAL POLICY OF TERRORISM.
YOU ARE MISTAKEN, MISS LANE. WE HAVE NO SUCH POLICY.

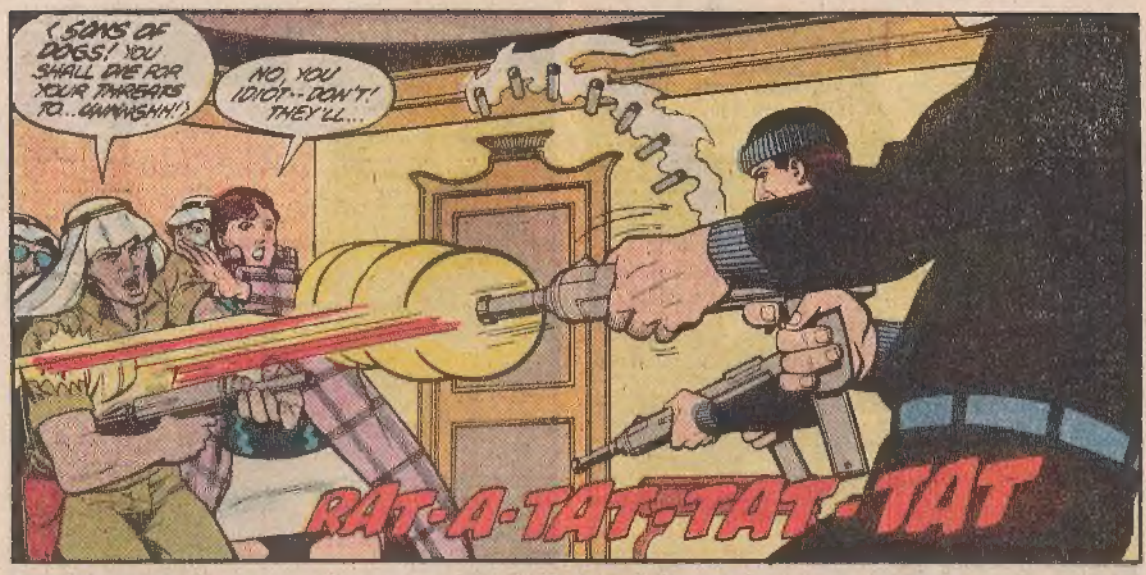
NO? WHAT ABOUT THOSE TERRORISTS SUPERMAN TOOK OUT WHEN HE...
ENOUGH, WOMAN! AMERICA OR NOT, YOU OVERSTEP YOUR STATION. GUARDS!

HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA--?! I'M AN AMERICAN! YOU CAN'T..

BUT I JUST HAVE, MISS LANE.
AS I HAVE SAID, IN QURAC WE KNOW HOW TO TREAT OUR WOMEN.


IT IS TIME YOU LEARNED THAT LESSON! HOLD HER STEADY!
YOU...YOU'RE CRAZY! I... WHAT?!
EVERYBODY-- FREEZE!

WHO...? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE? DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM...?
WHAT DO YOU THINK BRINGS US HERE, MINISTER? NOW--RAISE YOUR HANDS!



--AND I WANT YOU, MINISTER. YOU SHALL COME WITH US!
BRING THE WOMAN AS WELL.
YOU JUST BOUGHT YOURSELF SOME BIG TROUBLE, MISTER! THIS IS METROPOLIS-- SUPERMAN'S TURF!

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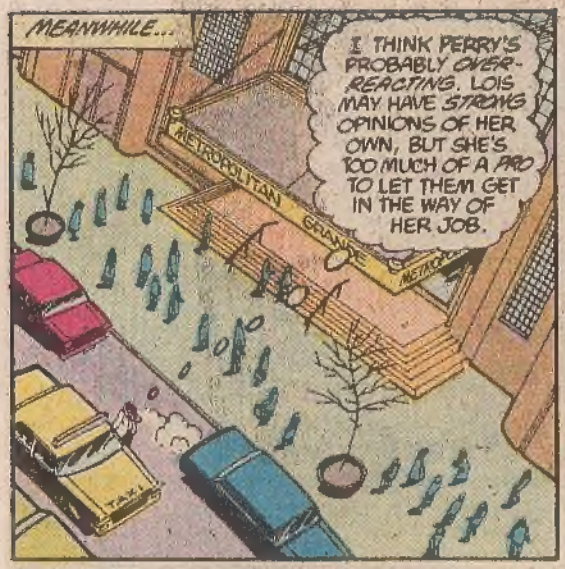
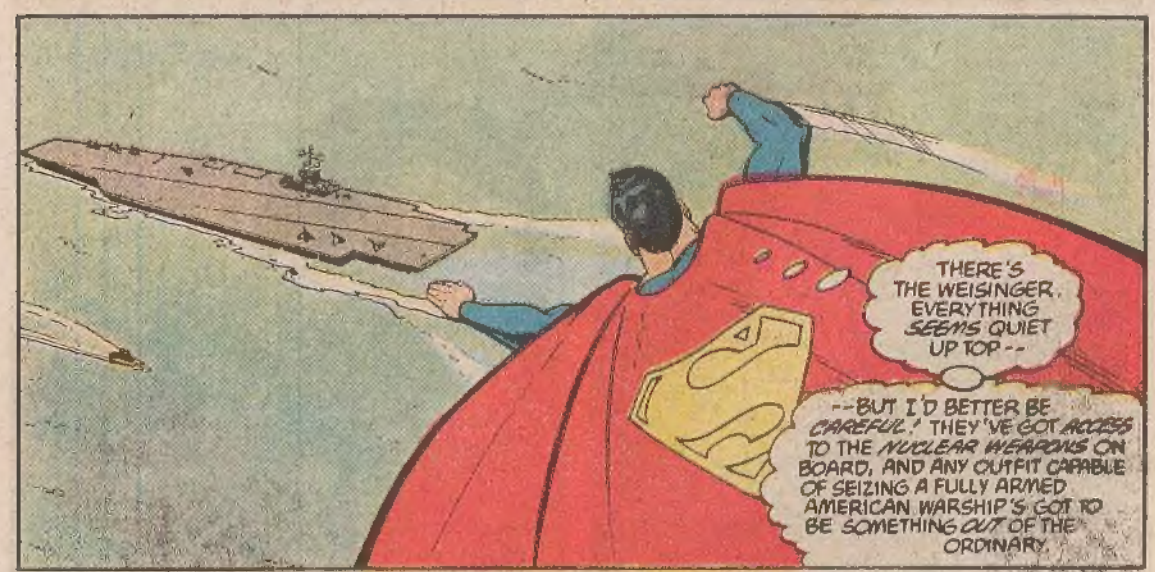
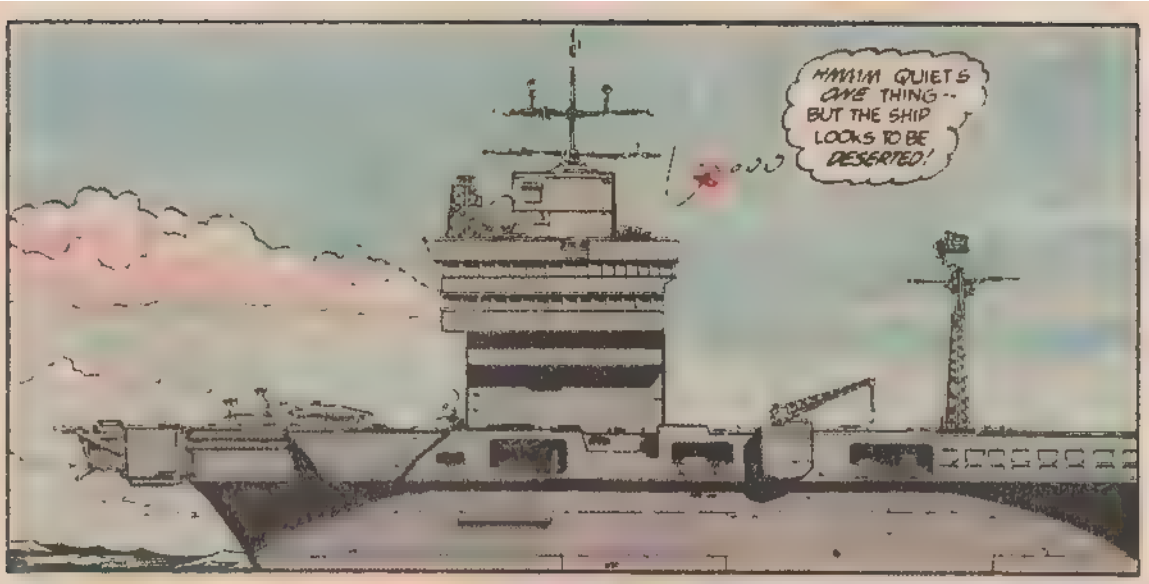

MEANWHILE...
I THINK PERRY'S PROBABLY OVER-REACTING. LOIS MAY HAVE STRONG OPINIONS OF HER OWN, BUT SHE'S TOO MUCH OF A PRO TO LET THEM GET IN THE WAY OF HER JOB.
METROPOLITAN
TAXI

STILL, IT GETS ME AWAY FROM CAT FOR A WHILE, SO...HUH? WHAT'S THAT--?
...I'M BAD... I'M BAD... SO BAD...
WE INTERRUPT FOR THIS BULLETIN.. TERRORISTS HAVE SEIZED THE NUCLEAR AIRCRAFT CARRIER U.S.S. WEISINGER--

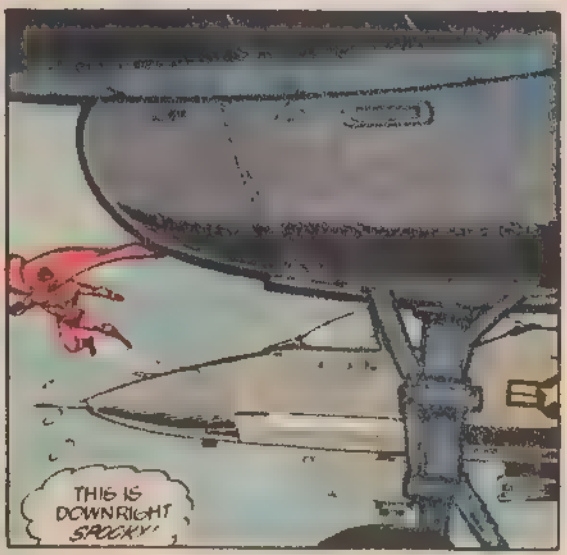
--WHICH ARRIVED YESTERDAY IN METROPOLIS HARBOR. AUTHORITIES ARE AWAITING DEMANDS FROM...
BIG TROUBLE--
OH, MY!

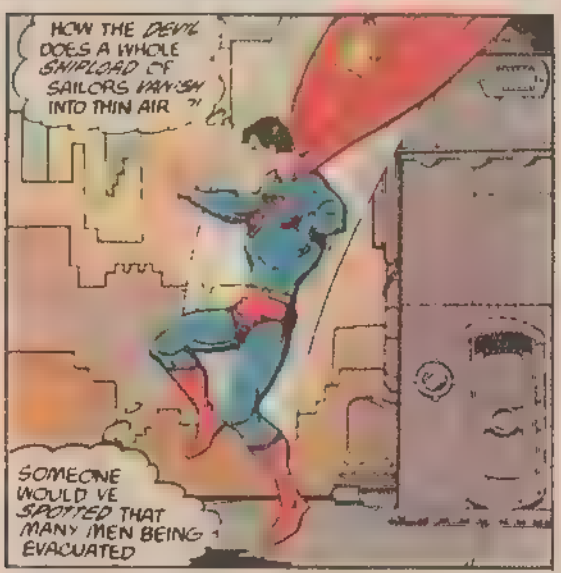
LEXCORP
--MAKING IT A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!


THERE'S THE WEISINGER. EVERYTHING SEEMS QUIET UP TOP--
--BUT I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL! THEY'VE GOT ACCESS TO THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON BOARD, AND ANY OUTFIT CAPABLE OF SEIZING A FULLY ARMED AMERICAN WARSHIP'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.


MMMM QUIET'S ONE THING -- BUT THE SHIP LOOKS TO BE DESERTED!

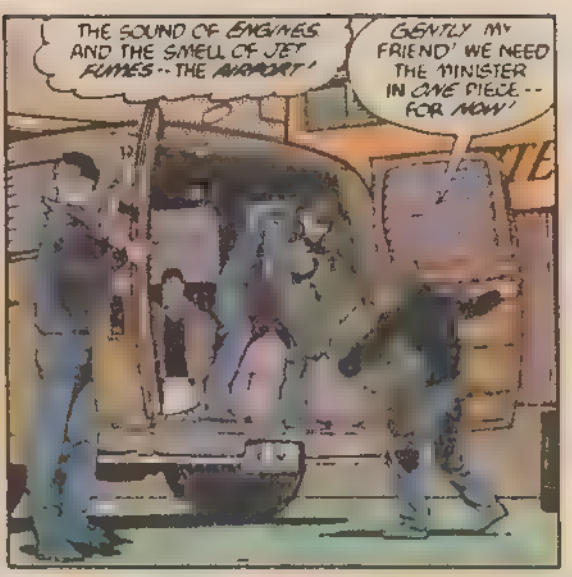
NOBODY ON DECK.
DITTO FOR THE BRIDGE

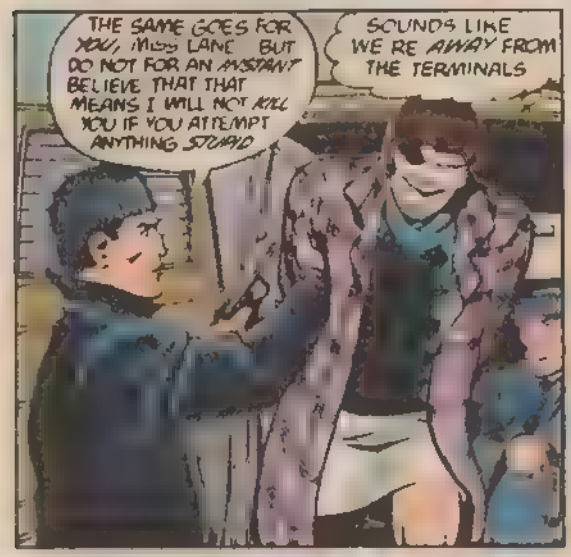

THIS IS DOWNRIGHT SPOOKY!


HOW THE DEVIL DOES A WHOLE SHIPLOAD OF SAILORS VANISH INTO THIN AIR
SOMEONE WOULD'VE SPOTTED THAT MANY MEN BEING EVACUATED

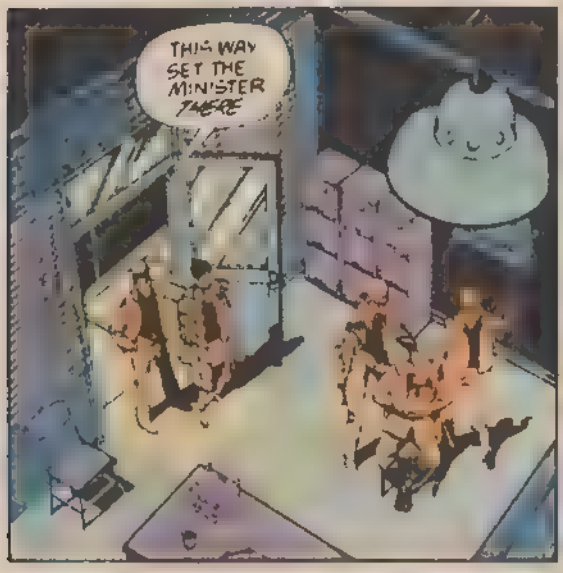
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE BLAST IT, BUT. WAIT! WHAT'S THAT--?

MEANWHILE, SEVERAL MILES OUTSIDE OF METROPOLIS.
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT


THE SOUND OF ENGINES AND THE SMELL OF JET FUMES -- THE AIRPORT!
GENTLY MY FRIEND! WE NEED THE MINISTER IN ONE PIECE -- FOR NOW!


THE SAME GOES FOR YOU, MISS LANE BUT DO NOT FOR AN INSTANT BELIEVE THAT THAT MEANS I WILL NOT KILL YOU IF YOU ATTEMPT ANYTHING STUPID
SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE AWAY FROM THE TERMINALS

I'VE GOT TO KEEP MY COOL LEARN ALL I CAN -- AND HOPE I'M STILL ALIVE TO LOSE THAT INFORMATION LATER
WATCH YOUR STEP, MISS LANE


THIS WAY! SET THE MINISTER THERE

YOU WILL NOT NEED THIS ANY LONGER, MISS LANE YOU HAVE ALREADY SEEN OUR FACES. NOT THAT IT MATTERS
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUNDS OF THAT

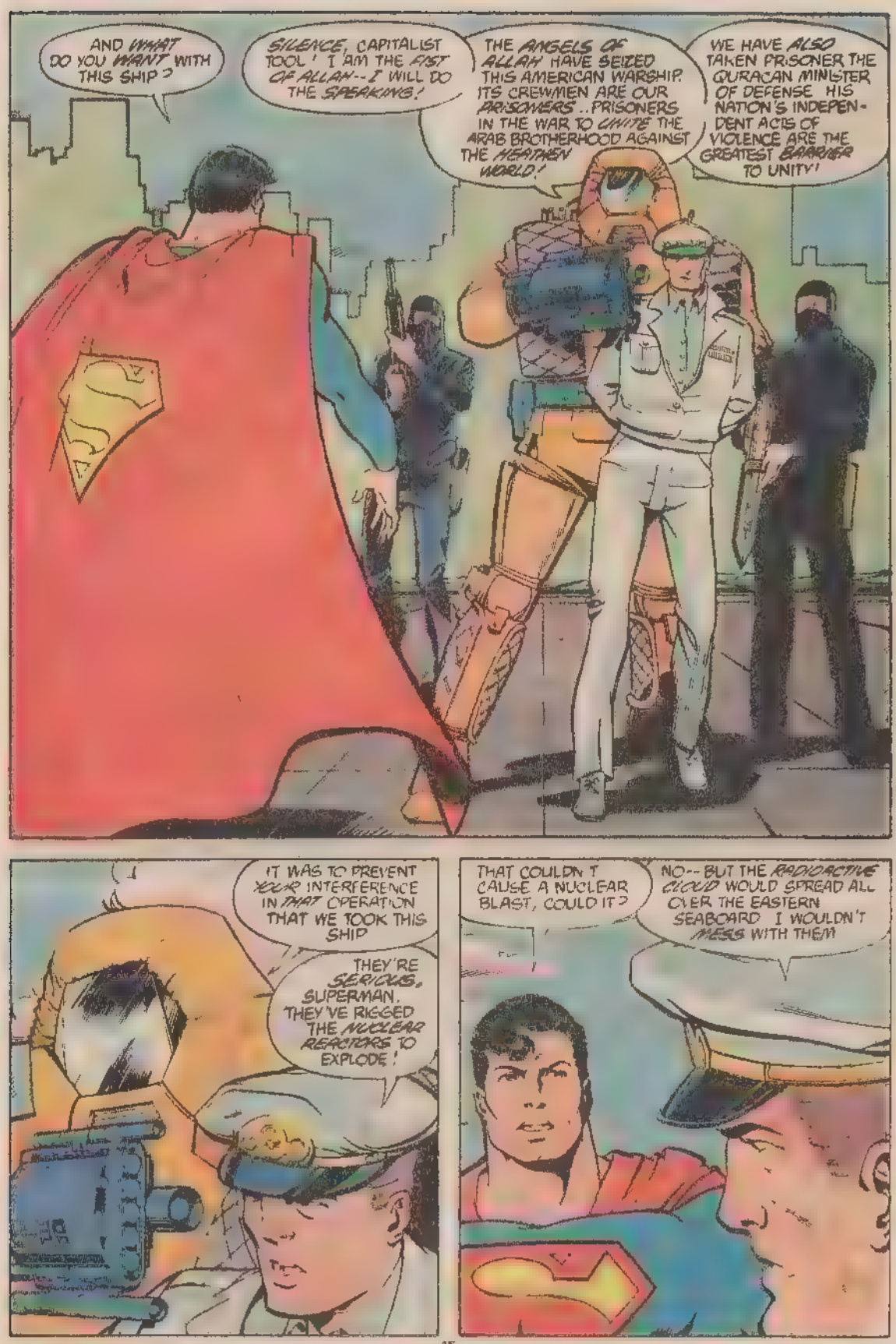
NOW WE WILL TALK
OWITCH!
AND AFTER WE ARE DONE TALKING, YOU SHALL WRITE A STORY FOR PUBLICATION IN YOUR NEWSPAPER STATING OUR SIDE OF THE MOLLY WAR IN WHICH WE ENGAGE!
MISTER, I'D PROMISED MYSELF I WAS GOING TO BEHAVE AND NOT MAKE ANY TROUBLE--
--BUT I LIED!
UHHHFFF!
GOD, SOMETIMES I JUST HATE MYSELF!
S-STOP, WOMAN! THERE IS NO WAY OUT!
VERY WELL I WARNED YOU.
CHOKK
ARRRGH! WHAT ?!?
"THE FIRST SHOT HAS TO COUNT!" THAT WAS THE FIRST THING THEY'D TAUGHT US IN TRAINING

" ..IN ANTICIPATION OF SITUATIONS SUCH AS THIS.
"I COUNT FOUR PERSONNEL AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, FOUR GUNS. IT'S MY INTENTION TO TAKE THEM ALIVE FOR INTERROGATION, BUT THEY'RE HOLDING A LOT OF FIREPOWER, AND MY MAIN INTENT IS STAYING ALIVE."
UP THERE! IT IS JUST ONE MAN!

" THAT WAS THE SECOND THING THEY TAUGHT US IN TRAINING.
RAT-A-TAT TAT-TAT-TAT P-TING

"THESE CRATES MAKE GOOD TEMPORARY COVER.
"OF COURSE, I ONLY NEED IT LONG ENOUGH TO RETRIEVE MY LANCE.

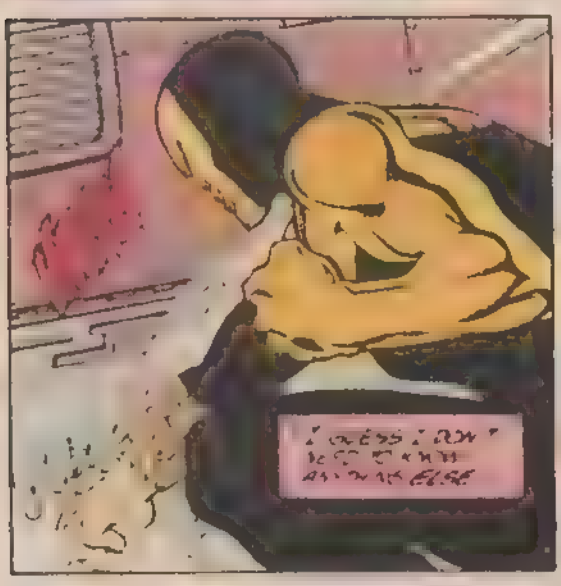
"OUT IN THE FIELD WE'RE SUPPOSED TO RELY FIRST AND FOREMOST ON OUR TRAINING AND ABILITIES--"
"BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP THEM FROM LOADING US DOWN WITH GADGETS I NEVER DREAMED EXISTED WHEN I WAS ON THE N.Y.P.D.
"I'VE TAKEN A PARTICULAR LIKING TO THE LANCE."
SNIK
KRAK
RAT-TAT-TAT
WHO IS THIS GUY ?!

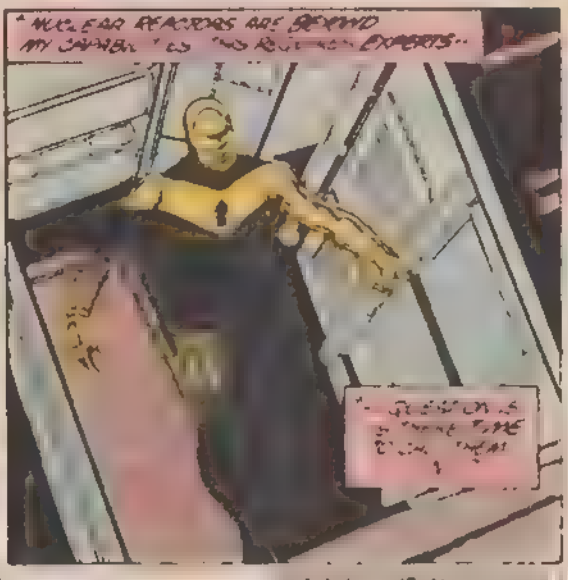

AND WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THIS SHIP?
SILENCE, CAPITALIST TOOL! I AM THE FIST OF ALLAH--I WILL DO THE SPEAKING!
THE ANGELS OF ALLAH HAVE SEIZED THIS AMERICAN WARSHIP. ITS CREWMEN ARE OUR PRISONERS..PRISONERS IN THE WAR TO UNITE THE ARAB BROTHERHOOD AGAINST THE HEATHEN WORLD!
WE HAVE ALSO TAKEN PRISONER THE QURACAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HIS NATION'S INDEPENDENT ACTS OF VIOLENCE ARE THE GREATEST BARRIER TO UNITY!
IT WAS TO PREVENT YOUR INTERFERENCE IN THAT OPERATION THAT WE TOOK THIS SHIP
THEY'RE SERIOUS, SUPERMAN. THEY'VE RIGGED THE NUCLEAR REACTORS TO EXPLODE!
THAT COULDN'T CAUSE A NUCLEAR BLAST, COULD IT?
NO--BUT THE RADIOACTIVE CLOUD WOULD SPREAD ALL OVER THE EASTERN SEABOARD. I WOULDN'T MESS WITH THEM!

MMMMPPP!

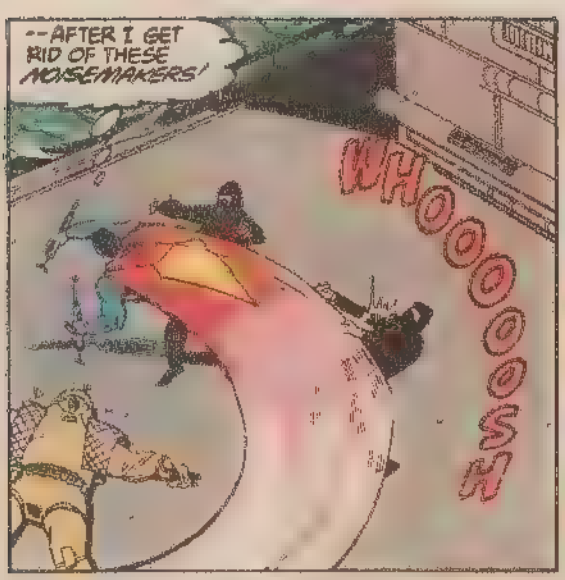
TALK TO ME TERRORIST MOW MANY ARE YOU?

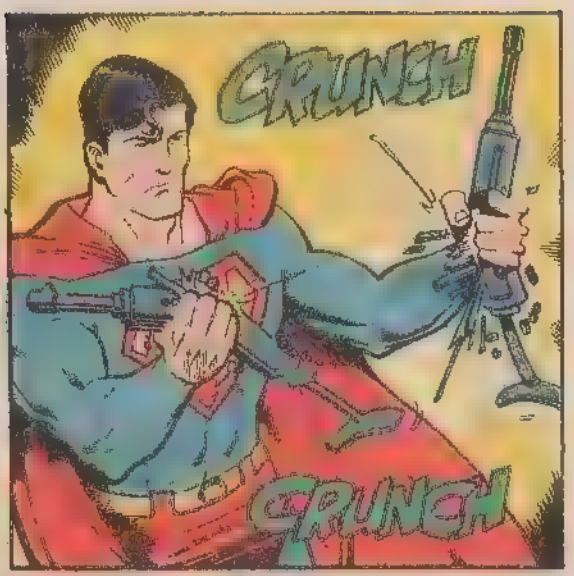
I'M SERIOUS, MISTER! I'LL
INTERFERENCE AND WE WILL EXPLODE THE SHIP'S NUCLEAR REACTOR!

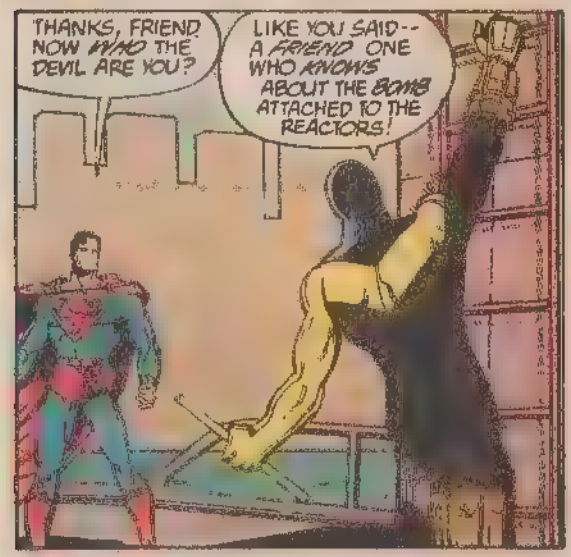


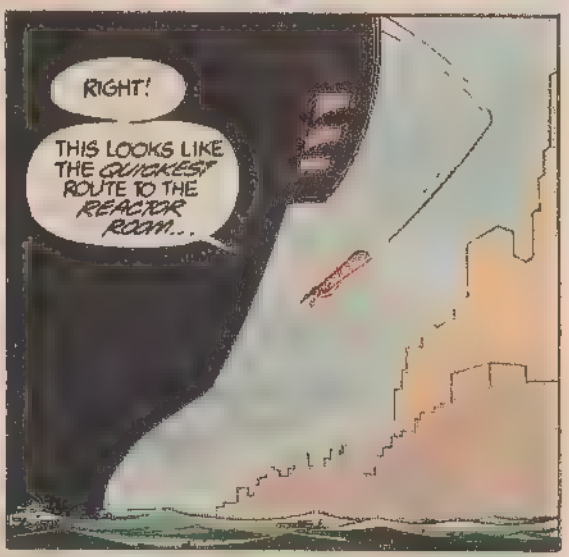

NUCLEAR REACTORS ARE BEYOND MY CAPABILITIES... I'LL HAVE TO CONSULT EXPERTS...

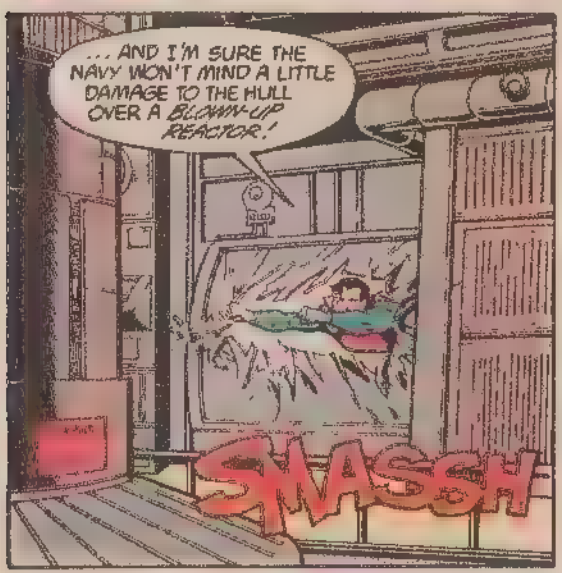
"I WAS BARELY ABLE TO SNEAK ABOARD ALONE A DEMO-TEAM LOADED WITH EQUIPMENT THEY'D NEVER MAKE"
"BESIDES, THE TERRORISTS COULD BE MONITORING THE AIRWAVES AND INTERCEPT ANY CALL TO BISHOP CONTROL"
"WAIT! ANY TV ON DECK--"
"SUPERMAN"
"LOOKS LIKE MY PROBLEM'S SOLVED."
"AFTER I HELP SUPERMAN OUT OF HIS STALEMATE"
YOU'D BE DOOMING THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE TO LINGERING PAINFUL DEATHS
NO AMERICAN IS INNOCENT"
"I'VE HEARD ENOUGH SO I MOVE"
WHA...?!
"AND I TRUST SUPERMAN TO TAKE THE HINT!"
FAR BE IT FROM ME TO LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH..! I'LL WORRY ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF MY MYSTERIOUS HELPER LATER--
KHRAMMM

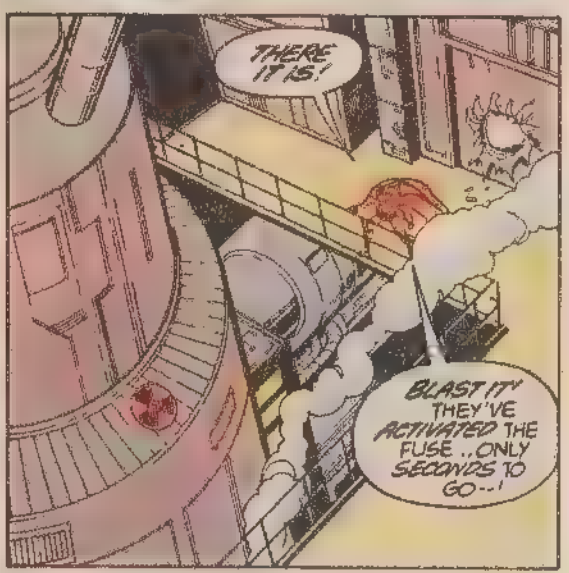

--AFTER I GET RID OF THESE NOISEMAKERS!
WHOOOOSH


CRUNCH
CRUNCH

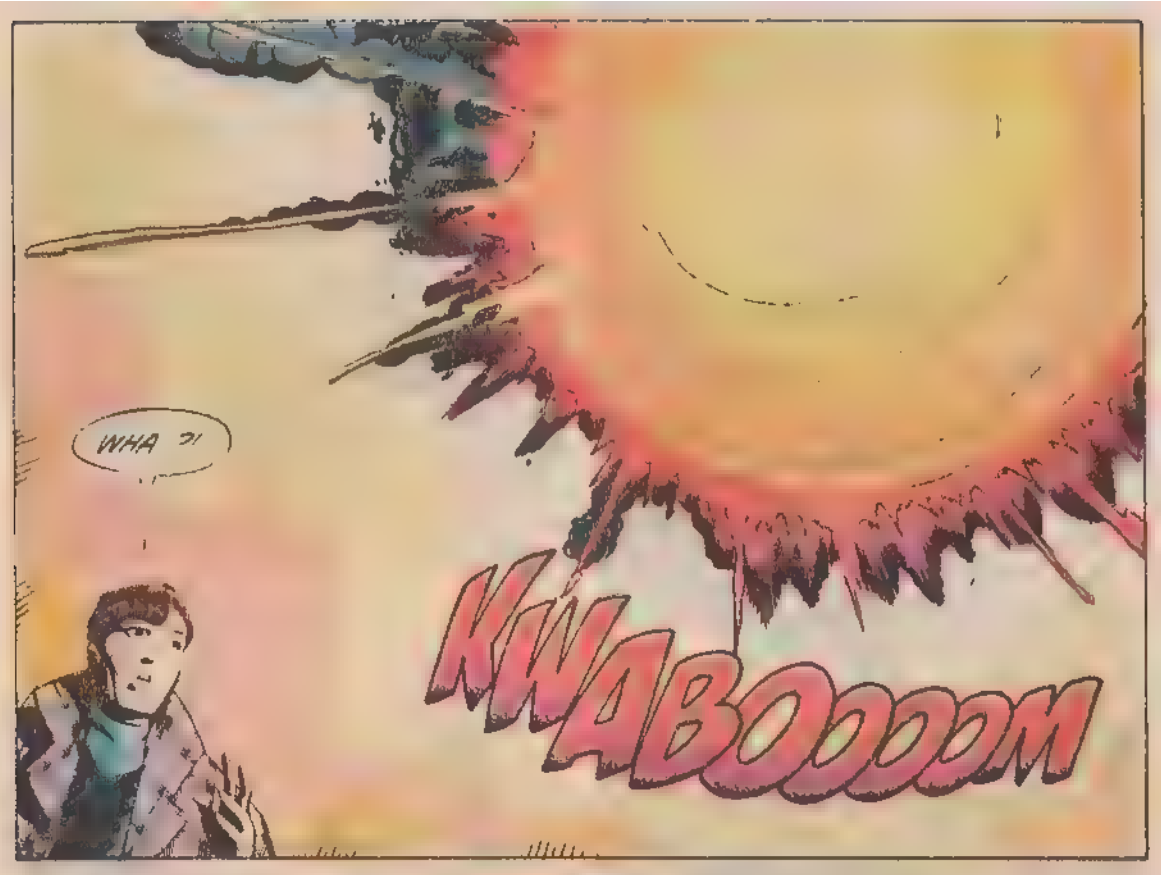

THANKS, FRIEND NOW WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?
LIKE YOU SAID-- A FRIEND ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT THE BOMB ATTACHED TO THE REACTORS!

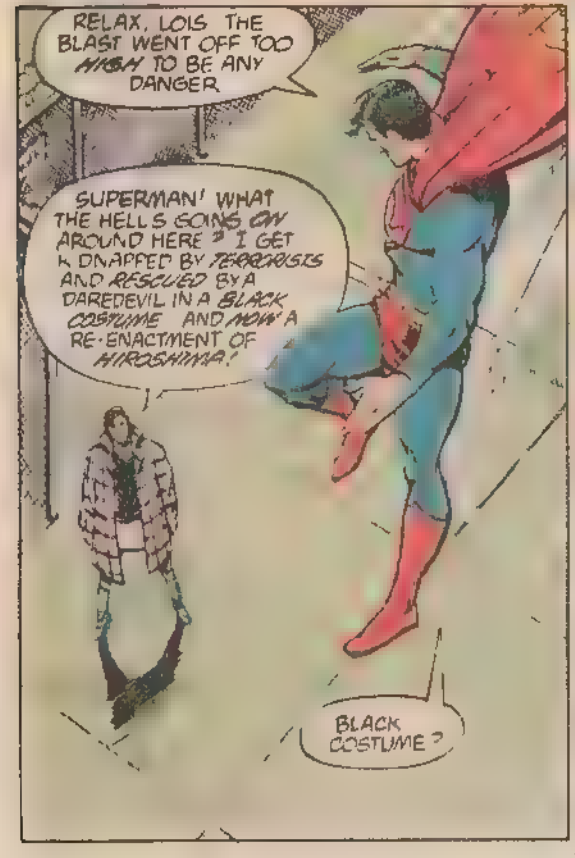

RIGHT!
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE QUICKEST ROUTE TO THE REACTOR ROOM...

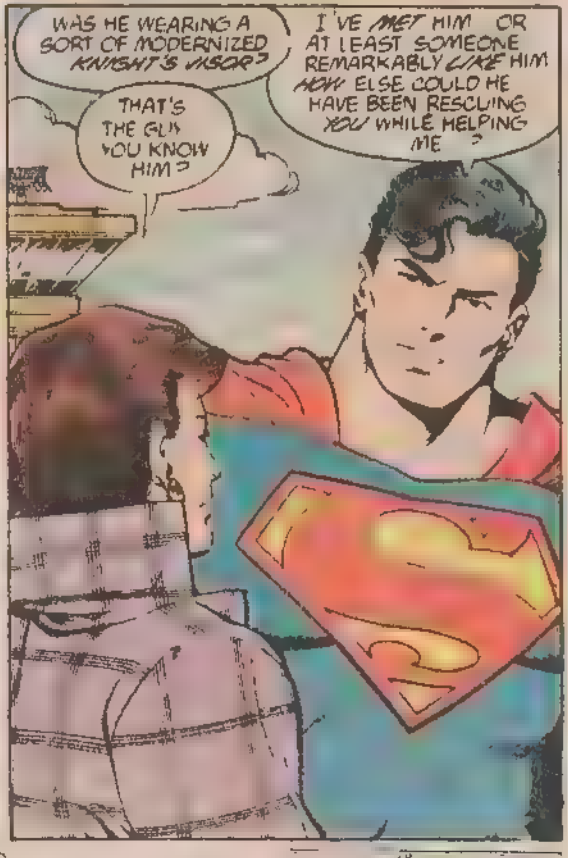

... AND I'M SURE THE NAVY WON'T MIND A LITTLE DAMAGE TO THE HULL OVER A BLOWN-UP REACTOR!
SMASSH


THERE IT IS!
BLAST IT! THEY'VE ACTIVATED THE FUSE..ONLY SECONDS TO GO--!

"LE MAISTER'S PLANE'S SITTING ON THE LEAD AS PER THE ORDERS HE'D PROVIDED ALONG WITH THE WARRANT
"I'M A COUPLE OF MINUTES HE'D BE ON HIS WAY OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND MY JOB WOULD BE FINISHED.
PRIVATE
"THAT'S ALL RIGHT BY ME, DOC, BECAUSE I AM HERE TO PROTECT SARAH ST KILLERS
THIS WAY, ACHMED. GO!
I AM GOING..
--BUT KNOW THIS WOMAN YOU WILL STILL BE PUNISHED FOR YOUR IMPUDENCE! I SHALL NOT FORGET IT!
BETTER DO AS THE MAN SAYS BEFORE I FORGET I'M A LADY, SLEAZEBAG.
THERE HE GOES-- THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR GOD KNOWS HOW MANY DEATHS... SCOT-FREE!
POLITICS MS LANE
FOR WHATEVER REASON THE GOVERNMENTS DECIDED THEY NEED HIM ALIVE AND FREE FOR THE MOMENT
...BUT THAT CAN CHANGE THE MAN WILL GET WHAT'S COMING TO HIM MA'AM YOU CAN COUNT ON IT
I WISH I WAS AS CONFIDENT OF THAT AS YOU ARE, MISTER--
--BUT I'VE SEEN TOO MANY OF HIS KIND WALK AFTER.. HEY!
WHERE'D HE GO?


WHA ?!
KWABOOOOM


RELAX, LOIS. THE BLAST WENT OFF TOO HIGH TO BE ANY DANGER.
SUPERMAN! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON AROUND HERE? I GET K-DNAPPED BY TERRORISTS AND RESCUED BY A DAREDEVIL IN A BLACK COSTUME AND NOW A RE-ENACTMENT OF HIROSHIMA!
BLACK COSTUME?


WAS HE WEARING A SORT OF MODERNIZED KNIGHT'S VISOR?
I'VE MET HIM! OR AT LEAST SOMEONE REMARKABLY LIKE HIM. HOW ELSE COULD HE HAVE BEEN RESCUING YOU WHILE HELPING ME?
THAT'S THE GUY YOU KNOW HIM?

EPILOG 1:
ALMOST FINISHED, LOIS? PERRY'S WAITING FOR YOU TO FILE YOUR STORY ON THE KIDNAPPING.
JUST ABOUT THROUGH, CLARK.
HMMM. READS GOOD, LOIS.
THANKS. TOO BAD YOU MISSED ALL THE FUN.
WELL, I WAS HAVING SOME FUN OF MY OWN..
KENT WROTE UP SUPERMAN'S PART IN STOPPING THE HIJACKERS OF THE NAVY SHIP.
WHY DOESN'T THAT SURPRISE ME?
STILL, I'D TRADE A MONTH'S WORTH OF SUPERMAN STORIES FOR THE LOWDOWN ON THOSE MYSTERY MEN IN THE BLACK COSTUMES--!

EPILOGUE 2:
KONIG
CHECKMATE HEADQUARTERS, SHELBY, VIRGINIA...
KNIGHT-TWO JUST CHECKED IN, HARRY. THE MINISTER'S PLANE TOOK OFF 15 MINUTES AGO.
HAH! THAT TOWEL-HEADED BOZO'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!
RIGHT. THEY'LL BE OUT OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN A COUPLE OF SECONDS...
THE U.S.A. GAVE IT ITS ALL TO PROTECT THE MINISTER FROM HARM WHILE HE WAS A GUEST IN OUR COUNTRY--
KLIK
"--BUT ONCE HE'S OUT OF OUR HANDS...
BA-BOOM!
"...WELL, QUIRAC'S GOING TO HAVE A HARD TIME PINNING THE BLAME ON US...!"

NEXT MONTH ... CHECKMATE! DEBUTS IN ITS OWN MONTHLY SERIES BY PAUL KUPPERBERG, STEVE ERWIN, AND AL VEY! AND NEXT IN SUPERMAN # 16: CRAZIER THAN PEE-WEE! OLDER THAN SOUPY! NOT NEARLY AS NICE AS THE CAPTAIN... AND "HE ONLY LAUGHS WHEN I HURT!"

DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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Dear Mr. Carlin:

ACTION #594 was great. I really enjoyed it. That was a neat fight scene with Booster Gold at the end—or was it? You guys had me stumped for a minute, but the Booster Gold Superman fought was obviously an imposter, since he didn't have those powers when the Man of Steel fought him last.

Please, have more of Booster in future issues. They're likely to meet almost everyday, since they operate in the same city.

I'd like to see (here we go again: it seems that no letter is complete without a list of requests) in future issues...

1) More Lana Lang, since she knows Clark's secret. He could confide in her.

2) Firestorm, since he's gone through changes.

3) Captain Atom, same reason as Firestorm's.

4) Justice League International, maybe Superman could even join 'em.

Well, that's it. I'll say good-bye now, and see you in thirty.

Ricardo Padiua
1731-B Valley Rd.
Albuquerque, NM 87105

* * * * *

Dear John:

Although I am not a regular reader of ACTION, or any of the Superman titles for that matter, I picked up issue #594 because of the appearance of Booster Gold. I believe I will be forced to reconsider my position on the Superman comics and pick up a few more issues. The art alone would make them worth buying, even if the writing were terrible, which it certainly isn't.

Much as I hate to say it, you draw Booster as well as Dan Jurgens, and you drew Trixie better than she's been looking of late. (To switch comics for a minute, Lois Lane's looking all right these days too, isn't she?) I also loved the way you took the cover of BOOSTER GOLD #7 and used it to inspire the cover of this issue. For some reason, I felt this was a very powerful cover (ACTION'S) and every time I see it, it makes me want to read the comic again. I'm going to have to hide it if I want to get anything done around here!

Congratulations, Mr. Byrne. You may have a new reader on your hands. Thank you.

Peter Meilaender
293 E. College St.
Oberlin, OH 44074

* * * * *

Dear Super-Boosters:

AAWWWRIIIIGHT!! Let's hear it for Super-Hero Numero Uno! Faster than a speeding stock market crash, able to leap my comic book collection in a single bound, mightier than an ad for a new DC maxi-series! It's a bird, it's a plane, it's... Booster Gold!!

That's right!! You got it! John Byrne, Keith Williams and all showed us just how much fun upstaging Superman can be! I can't wait to see the sinister secret behind this deadly publicity stunt, but for now, it's exciting enough to see a battle between two of Metropolis' finest heroes! The last eight pages were spectacular to say the least! Mr. Byrne's drawings of the Corporate Crusader are second only to Dan Jurgens' own.

I also enjoyed Lois Lane's battle with the Man of Gold on pages 9 and 10. I haven't seen that much righteous anger since the time Darkseid stole one of my socks!

It was a special treat to see Batman and Robin make a guest appearance, and to see Robin's reaction upon meeting the Man of Steel for the first time!

I'm becoming more and more intrigued by the scrapbook mystery! The splash page was beautiful, Lois Lane was beautiful, and Trixie Collins was pretty darn cute, too!

In this issue's "Reaction" lettercol, Jason Rivera of Honolulu mentions some characters he'd like to see with Superman. I'd like to second his motion for the Thorn, Ragman, and Black Orchid. I'd like to cast my vote for Power Girl, Aquaman, Batgirl, and the Global Guardians, too!

Thanks for "All That Glisters."

Neil Ahlquist
2817 15th Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Wonder why Darkseid's after your socks, Neil—according to next year's WHO'S WHO: UPDATE, Darkseid doesn't wear socks! Hmmm, must be the beginnings of another nefarious scheme. Beware, Minneapolis!

* * * * *

Dear Mike:

"All That Glisters?" Is that half glitters, half glistens? Strange title, but I do like Jabberwocky.

Byrne is good, yeah; but it's Tom Zuiko and Keith Williams who "shone" in ACTION #594. All the heroes looked great; Bats in black and grey, awestruck grinning Robin, egocentric peacock Booster and truth, justice and apple-pie Superman. I truly loved it.

John Byrne shows quite some knowledge and understanding of Batman in this issue. The comment that comes to mind: "Robin seems to have had a humanizing effect on the Batman." Very insightful. I like Byrne's Superman. May the legend live forever!

Charlie Harris
2657 N. Mountain Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719

* * * * *

Dear John and Mike:

Ever since I saw John Byrne on the TODAY show being interviewed by Jane Pauley about the "new" Superman and the MAN OF STEEL mini-series, I started buying DC comics. That's part of my reason for writing this letter... to say thanks to you guys for introducing me to comics.

Since this is my first letter to DC, let me say how much I enjoy reading all three Superman titles. ACTION COMICS #594 was a great story because it had the other resident of Metropolis, Booster Gold. (Well, almost the real Booster!) Not only was it great... it was fantastic! I loved the guest appearance of Batman and Robin in the first four pages. As always, the art was the finest.

How about having Green Arrow, Captain Marvel, Flash, Aquaman, and Dr. Fate guest appear each in one issue? Am I asking too much? Well, that's all I can say now for my first letter.

Abe Rodriguez
2866 Corning St.
Los Angeles, CA 90034

* * * * *

Dear John and Co.:

ACTION #594 was another fine outing with the cover being a definite shocker.

But what was absolutely priceless was Robin's first meeting with Superman. Wow!

Mr. Kiril Kundurazief
2439 Merrywood Street
Pomona, CA 91767

* * * * *

Dear John:

I think the new concept of ACTION COMICS is great. I'm especially glad that you and Keith Williams have taken over the inking chores. The style is more Byrne-ish now. I thought the ACTION #594 was great, but (and there's always a but!) the idea of an evil imposter is

used a lot in comics. But (there's that but again!) I thought it was done well. I had no idea that Booster was an imposter until the last page.

I really enjoyed the scene between Superman and Robin. I thought it was a completely realistic reaction for Robin to be awestruck upon meeting Superman.

I'm not going to give you a list of people I would like to see team-up with Superman. I am completely satisfied with the ones you come up with each month. And anyway, by the end of this series most everyone in the DC Universe will have turned up in these pages! Keep up the good work!

Michael D.Z.
2839 N. 109 St.
Toledo, OH 43611

Seems to us that everyone who writes in, Michael, always has a great big "but!"

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

My ACTION Reaction:

Wonderful! Or, simply ... super! A whole year of Superman teaming up with comicdom's greatest heroes! Considering the fantastic new direction the Man of Steel's life has taken recently, can we expect anything but the best from DC comics and John Byrne?

We've seen some incredible co-stars grace the pages of the revamped ACTION comics. Heroes like the dynamic Demon, the winged-wonder of Hawkman, the mesmerizing Mr. Miracle. Superman has even teamed up with DC's most powerful super-teams: the titanic Teen Titans, the awesome New Gods, the charismatic Green Lantern Corps and the magnificent Metal Men!

History making confrontations have whizzed their way across the ACTION pages. SUPERMAN vs. SUPERBOY! (a battle whose end I see as far from over). The reappearance of the Phantom Stranger in the '80's! Even the majestic malevolence of Apokolips as Big Barda battles on earth!

Yes, history making, indeed!

But now, the Man of Steel may have met his match in the Man of Gold! Last year, Booster Gold faced Superman in a truly classic brawl. From then on, it was evident to everyone that these two didn't exactly hit it off! Well, not like we would have liked them to. And considering the fact that they both reside in Metropolis, there was always the realization that someday they would find each other at odd ends.

When they say, opposites attract, they certainly have Booster Gold and Superman in mind! They surely do make perfect contact, full force and head on! But this time, who's getting the stuffings knocked out of him?

What I want to know is, why is Booster acting like an envious movie star? Is it because he wants a movie for himself (hint, hint)? Maybe something can be arranged, huh? And why so relentless all of a sudden? Why, he's almost villain-like. Oh, yeah, one more thing, WHO THE HECK IS THAT OTHER BOOSTER GOLD?!!

Guess I'll have to wait until BOOSTER GOLD #23!

ACTION #594, "All That Glisters" was fantastic! We got a chance to see Superman come up against yet another unstoppable force (gosh, he's been meeting a lot of those lately) this one a super-hero, Booster Gold! And I'd like to compliment the return of Batman.

Ever since the Annual, I've wanted to see more on the Dark Knight and the Man of Steel. Calling on Batman to assist him just goes to show that there are some things even a super-man can't handle. And thanks for more of Lois. Mixing her in with the Booster situation gave us a new insight on her character.

Well, it's been fifty fantastic years and only one year for the *new* Man of Steel in ACTION! Keep it up!

Juan Carlos Alvarez
1112 S.W. 11th St.
Miami, FL 33129

* * * * *

RE: ACTION #594:

Starting with a magnificent cover (which gave a lesson in Jack Kirby power without being a blatant Kirby copy) this issue was the most entertaining one yet.

I know that I am in the minority, but I did not think that Giordano and Byrne complemented each other well at all. Keith Williams influence is at it's best when it breaks out from expected Byrne routines (for instance: the cityscapes in page 11, panel 1 and page 13, panel 4).

As for John Byrne, the snappy, fast-paced cutting from scene to scene is increasingly effective here and in SUPERMAN. His Daily Planet scenes, are always a treat, and this issue's action was quite spectacular. Page 16 was a strong standout.

I would also like to compliment Tom Zuiko's coloring work. It's rare for colorists and letterers to develop a distinctive style due to comics' production limitations. Just look at how non-traditional, yet striking panel 2 on page 11 is with its dark green, red, and yellow. His subtlety and attention to detail are also appreciated.

As far as ethics are concerned, I should be irritated at the lack of warning that this story will be continued in BOOSTER GOLD, but it was just so good that I'm buying and trying that issue of BOOSTER GOLD.

And now, here is my list for preferred future ACTION stories:

—Superman's pal, Jimmy Olsen (perhaps detailing the origin of the signal watch)!

—The Creeper (Clark and Lois meet rival reporter Jack Ryder).

—An untold story of Supe's first meeting with the original Doom Patrol.

—Lex Luthor (imagine Luthor's brain and Superman's brawn forced to team up to escape a backfired trap of Luthor's design).

And since Byrne does offbeat characters so well:

—Metamorpho, Lady Quark, The Elongated Man, Vigilante, and the newly costumed Aquaman!

Thank you.

Todd Standish
2316 Stuart St.
Berkeley, CA 94705

Don't thank us, Todd. We ought to be thanking you! You've just given us a whole year's worth of plots for ACTION!!!

* * * * *

Dear John:

For as long as I've read comics there was always one hero who was tagged as so "super" that he could only keep busy by amusing himself with cute contests, madcap aliens, and a one time boxing binge! This hero was, of course, Superman. That is, until now. How refreshing it was to see the world's mightiest hero humanized. MAN OF STEEL paved the way for what is bound to be one of the greatest eras of comics.

As Jack Kirby was then, so John Byrne is now. And we, my friends, are living it, here and now!

One of the fantastic methods you're employing for your readers, John, is the subtlety of introducing Superman's new or revised powers. And their limitations! As issue #10 presented, Clark is able to manipulate one power at his full magnitude, while others are used to a some what lesser degree. If this is true, and Luthor discovers this (he's very clever you know), why, the mind staggers at what kind of action filled epic John could brew!

Farewell, friends. Up, up, and away!!!

PFC Jonathan Hook
C 4/1 ADA BN
Apo, NY 09227

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Byrne:

Well, ACTION COMICS #594 was certainly worth the money that I paid for it!! Booster Gold is one of my absolute favorite characters in the DC Universe! The subtle tie-ins with his comic were well executed (page 6) and Batman and Robin's cameo was another added treat!

But, I'm stumped as to who is trying to discredit Booster, and disgrace Superman! My first guess was Mr. Mxyzptlk, but he doesn't know B.G. Then, I thought maybe it's Lex Luthor. After all, B.G.I. is a strong competitor for Lex Corp! Yeah! That's who I'll say it is! Am I right?

Jody Hamby
Route 1 Box 67
Robbins, TN 37852

Yes, Jody, you were absolutely right!! And for your prize, you can take the washer/dryer set, or trade it in for a chance at our fabulous...

NEXT ISSUE: The multi-talented Metal Men return to the pages of ACTION COMICS—and multi-talented Ross Andru makes *his* return to the Metal Men! That's right, the original penciller of that Titanic Team pencils ACTION #599—written and inked by ACTION regulars John Byrne and Keith Williams, of course! You won't want to be the one who misses this one—after all, *you* asked for this one.